

b) about 5-40% by weight, based on the carrier composition, of a pharmaceutically acceptable oil which is substantially pure or which is in the form of a mixture, comprising a triglyceride as essential lipophilic component; and

c) about 10-50% by weight, based on the carrier composition, of a nonionic surfactant which is substantially pure or which is in the form of a mixture, having an HLB value of more than 10;

and further optional pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

12. (new) A pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, comprising about 1-30% by weight, based on the total weight of the carrier composition, of a sparingly soluble therapeutic agent having a solubility in pure water of less than 500 mg/1000 mL.

13. (new) A pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of cyclosporins, rapamycin, tacrolimus, deoxyspergualin, mycophenolate-mofetil, nifedipine, nimodipine, etoposide, and ibuprofen.

14. (new) A pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein component a) consists of a substantially pure sorbitan fatty ester, or of a mixture of sorbitan fatty esters, and the sorbitan skeleton is esterified with 1-3 acid radicals of saturated or unsaturated carboxylic acids having an even number of 8-20 carboxylic atoms.

15. (new) A pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein component a) contains as sorbitan fatty acid ester substantially pure sorbitan monolaurate, sorbitan monopalmitate, sorbitan monostearate, sorbitan tristearate, sorbitan monoleate, sorbitan sesquioleate, or sorbitan trioleate, or a mixture of these compounds.

16. (new) A pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein component b) contains as pharmaceutically acceptable oil ground nut oil, sesame oil, sunflower oil, olive oil, corn oil, soybean oil, castor oil, cottonseed oil, rapeseed oil, thistle oil, grapeseed oil, fish oil or neutral oil; and component c) contains a nonionic surfactant with a hydrophilic component consisting of 15-60 units of ethylene oxide.

17. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising: a solubilized therapeutic agent which is sparingly soluble in water; and a carrier composition, said carrier composition comprising:

a) about 10-50% by weight, based on the carrier composition, of a co-surfactant having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance of less than 10 (HLB value according to Griffin) which is a substantially pure sorbitan fatty ester, or of a mixture of sorbitan fatty esters, and the sorbitan